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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-07 EPAE-00 CEQ-01 HEW-06 AID-05
CIAE-00 SOE-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 INR-10 IO-14
L-03 NSF-02 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-05 ICA-20 SS-15
SP-02 DOE-15 INT-05 /140 W
----------041623 241831Z /64
P 241821Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9725
INFO AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ
AMCONSUL MATAMOROS
AMCONSUL TIJUANA

UNCLAS MEXICO 06699

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SENV, SWEL, EPAP, OCON, US, MX
SUBJECT: TECHNICAL MEETING ON BORDER ENVIRONMENTAL
PROBLEMS

REF: (A) MEXICO 3686, (B) STATE 56934, (C) STATE 87546,
(D) STATE 92710

1. MEETING WAS HELD AS SCHEDULED AT REYNOSA ON APR 18 BETWEEN CONRAD KLEVENO, DEL BARTH AND LARGE GROUP FROM EPA AND BLANCA ORDONEZ AND LARGE GROUP FROM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT UNDERSECRETARIAT (SMA). DR MARIO CALLES, MEX UNDERSECRETARY FOR HEALTH, MADE SOME OPENING REMARKS AS REPRESENTATIVE OF HEALTH AND WELFARE SECRETARY EMILIO MARTINEZ MANAUTOU, THEN LEFT. SOME STATE AND MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS WERE PRESENT ON U.S. SIDE, AS WERE PAHO REPS, EMBASSY S&T COUNSELOR, PHIL LANDRIGAN OF DHEW-CDC, AND IBWC REP BOB YBARRA. FOLLOWING EPA-SMA MEETING, SMA MET WITH TAYLOR QUINN, ET AL, FROM FDA.

2. SMA-EPA MEETING FOLLOWED AGENDA PREVIOUSLY AGREED UPON
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(REFTEL A) WITH ADDITION OF BRIEF DISCUSSION OF NOISE. MEETING WENT WELL, THOUGH SUBJECTS WERE NECESSARILY COVERED SOMEWHAT SUPERFICIALLY DUE TO BROAD SCOPE OF AGENDA AND LIMITED TIME.

3. WITH RESPECT TO LEAD STUDIES IN EL PASO - JUAREZ (REF-TEL D), BARTH AND LANDRIGAN EXPLAINED U.S. POSITION, BUT

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ORDONEZ NOTED THAT POPULATION MOVES AND, FROM PRACTICAL STANDPOINT, IT WAS BETTER TO MAKE BOTH TESTS AT SAME TIME IN ORDER NOT TO DISTURB THE PEOPLE TWICE. U.S. EXPERTS APPEARED TO ACCEPT THIS RATIONALE.

4. IN CONNECTION WITH COOPERATION ON AIR POLLUTION MONITORING IN SAN DIEGO-TIJUANA, ORDONEZ RAISED QUESTION OF WHETHER AN AGREEMENT COULD BE SIGNED IN ADVANCE OF A GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU). A REP OF SAN DIEGO SAID HE HAD NO PROBLEM WITH COOPRTING IRRESPECTIVE OF FORMAL AGREEMENTS, BUT THERE WAS NO DEFINITIVE ANSWER TO DRA ORDONEZ/ QUESTION.

5. WITH FDA, SMA REPS STRESSED THEIR INTEREST IN ARRIV-ING AT NECESSARY UNDERSTANDINGS TO PERMIT EXPORT OF SHELLFISH TO THE US AND MINIMIZE PROBLEMS WITH OTHER FOODSTUFFS. THEY NOTED AGREEMENT ON PROCEDURES WHICH HAD BEEN REACHED AMONG SMA, DEPT OF FISHERIES, AND COMMERCE SECRETARIAT. FDA REPS REFERRED TO EXISTING 1974 MOU WHICH PROVIDES FOR IMCE TO BE PRINCIPAL FDA POINT OF CONTACT IN MEXICO. THEY NOTED THAT FDA HAS SPANISH-SPEAKING MEXICO LIAISON OFFICE IN DALLAS WHICH HAS COMMUNICATIONS WITH IMCE ON DAILY BASIS. FDA REPS REPORTED THAT AGENCY WAS CLOSE TO BEING ABLE TO SIGN AGREEMENT WITH MEXICO ON OYSTERS. SINCE THERE HAD BEEN A REORGANIZATION IN MEXICO, FDA REPS EXPRESSED A UNCLASSIFIED

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WILLINGNESS TO DO NEW MOU'S, ONE AN "UMBRELLA" AGREEMENT AND A SEPARATE MOU ON SHELLFISH. MEXICANS WERE URGED TO MAKE ALL ARRANGEMENTS THRU FDA DALLAS OFFICE.

6. ABOVE NOT CLEARED WITH EPA OR FDA REPS. THOMPSON

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